



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - January 29, 2003

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers are returning to the ***Pacific Northwest***, but warm, unfavorably dry weather prevails elsewhere. Despite recent precipitation in the ***Great Basin and Northwest***, water-supply concerns continue to mount in the ***West*** due to long-term precipitation deficits, mostly below-normal mountain snow packs, and below-normal reservoir levels.
- ***On the Plains***, mild weather favors overwintering wheat, but continues to erode winter wheat's protective snow cover across ***northern portions of the region***. Wheat fields on the drought-affected ***central High Plains*** remain exposed to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, the return of cold weather to ***northern portions of the region*** is maintaining stress on livestock, while light snow lingers in the ***Ohio Valley***. The ***upper Midwest*** remains uncharacteristically bare for this time of year, with little or no snow cover, but 1- to 5-inch snow depths are reported across most of the ***eastern Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, the first significant showers since late December are developing from the ***Delta eastward***. The extended period of dry weather allowed previously saturated fields to dry out and permitted an acceleration of fieldwork.

Outlook: A slow-moving cold front will bring a mixture of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain to the ***central Appalachians and Mid-Atlantic States*** today, while widespread rain showers will fall across the ***Tennessee Valley and Southeast***. In the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***, periods of rain and snow will continue for the remainder of the week. Elsewhere, dry, unseasonably warm weather will prevail from the ***Southwest*** to the ***central and southern Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 3-7 calls for drier-than-normal weather in the ***Pacific Coast States*** and ***Great Basin***, while above-normal precipitation is forecast for the ***Plains, Gulf and Atlantic Coast States***, and parts of the ***Midwest***. Above-normal temperatures are expected in ***California***, the ***Plains, upper Midwest***, and ***New England***, while below-normal readings are forecast in the ***central and southern Rockies*** and ***eastern Gulf Coast States***.

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